

**REMARKS**

Claims 25, 27, 29, 33, 37, and 41 - 43 have been amended. No new matter is introduced with these amendments, which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 25, 27, and 29 - 45 remain in the application.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Paragraph 7 of the Office Action dated April 20, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 25, 27, and 29 - 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(3) as being anticipated by Gorelik et al. (U. S. Patent Publication US2002/0004799) in view of "Serialization of AVL-Binary Tree Element Retrieval via Duplexed Pointers" (March 1992, IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, hereinafter "the TDB article").

Applicants have amended all independent claims herein to more specify limitations of their invention. Independent Claims 25 and 27 are amended to specify that two indexes are maintained "to a single data structure". Independent Claims 29, 33, 37, and 41 are amended to specify that "both" data structures (for Claims 29, 33, and 37) or indexes (for Claim 41) represent an initial state. Independent Claim 43 is amended to specify "a single copy of data".

Gorelik, by contrast, uses two separate copies of data (and, as admitted on Page 6 of the Office Action, does not teach using indexes thereto). Applicants respectfully submit that their independent claims are patentably distinct from Gorelik, whether taken singly or in combination with the TDB article. Applicants also respectfully submit that their dependent claims are

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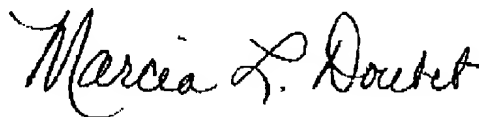
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patentable by virtue of the allowability of the independent claims from which they depend.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date. (As requested by the Examiner, a clean copy of the claims as currently presented is provided herewith in "Appendix A: Claims as Currently Presented".)

Respectfully submitted,



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